therefore for the Assembly to become a less and less representative body. Hence it was necessary that franchise for the Assembly should be given at least to all persons who paid a tax of not less than Rs. 10. Similarly, in the case of graduates, it was unnecessary to insist on a ten years' standing. All graduates, whatever their standing, should have the right to vote for the Assembly.

In the case of the Legislative Council also the franchise should be broadened still further. Universal suffrage was of course the perfect form of franchise. If that was not practicable in Travancore, all tax-payers should have the right to vote, irrespective of the amount of the tax they paid.

Another reform which was necessary was to create special electorates for the minority communities, both for the Legislative Council and the Assembly.

In regard to another matter, the constitution of the Legislative Council alone required a change. This was with regard to the President of the Council. Instead of the Dewan—President, the Council should have an elective President.

In conclusion, the member urged for the appointment of a committee to examine and revise the rules relating to the constitution and working both of the Council and of the Assembly.

190. Reform of the representative institutions in the State.

MR. P. JACOB KURIAN (*Member, Nominated*) said there were so many representative institutions in the State such as the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Legislative Council, the Municipal Councils etc. Of these he wanted to speak first and foremost about the Assembly. It had its origin during the time of H. H. the late Maharaja. Since its inception twenty four years ago, no changes were made in its constitution or working. It was high time that it should be either mended or ended. The Assembly will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee next year. The present moment was therefore opportune for making some reforms. A committee should be appointed at once to examine the question. Another healthy reform that could be thought of in this connection was the adoption of measures for quickening the political consciousness of the people. Under present conditions no community could take anything but a jaundiced view of the other communities. This kind of jealousy and distrust should be uprooted.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2 P. M. and met again at 3 P. M.

191. Reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. T. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Member, Trivandrum taluk, Group I*) said that the past record of the Assembly bore eloquent testimony to the useful part played by it in the scheme of the administration. Any attempt to reform the Assembly was therefore well worth making. The member had the following suggestions to make in this matter :—

(1) Instead of representations which led to no debates, discussions should be allowed in the Assembly and votes should be taken. Coupled with this, heads of departments should be made members of the Assembly. They should form the official side of the Assembly.

(2) The duration of the Assembly should be extended to 3 years,

(3) The property qualification for the franchise should be reduced from Rs. 50 to Rs. 25.

(4) The Assembly should have the power of discussing the annual Budget before it was introduced into the Legislative Council. It was enough if the house had the right of expressing its opinion on the Budget, not of passing it.

(5) Important legislative measures might also be discussed in the Assembly.

These were only a few suggestions. The details of the reforms should be settled by a committee which should have in its composition members of the Assembly and the Legislative Council as well as other experienced public men.

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